Sea link connecting Mumbai to the Mainlands

1835. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for a sea link (Sewri-nava Sea Link Project) connecting Mumbai to the mainland in order to reduce congestion in the Island city, for the environmental clearance;

(b) if so, whether the project was conceptualized in 1984; and

(c) the steps taken for clearance of the project; and the extent of cost escalation suffered by the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Steering Group appointed by the Government of Maharashtra had recommended the Bombay Trans-Harbour Link Project in 1984.

(c) The project was considered by the Expert Committee for Infrastructure Development and Miscellaneous Projects, constituted by Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, on 9-1-2004. The Committee has sought a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report from the Project Proponent. As per the Questionnaire for environmental appraisal submitted by the project proponent in October, 2003, the capital cost of the project is Rs. 6,600 crores.

Social Forestry

1836. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) The amount proposed to be spent for social forestry in Assam in this year;

(b) whether there is any monitoring Agency to monitor the work relating to the plantation and whether any records of death or survival of plants are kept; and